



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: February 2, 2012

Unemployment Assistance Available to Workers in Chilton and Jefferson Counties

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that workers who became unemployed as a direct result of recent severe storms, tornados, straight-line winds, and flooding in Chilton and Jefferson Counties may qualify for unemployment assistance.

People who live in or worked in these counties and become unemployed due to the severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, and straight-line winds during the period of January 22-23, 2012, may be eligible for the assistance under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program, which was triggered when President Obama designated the area as a disaster area on February 1, 2012.

“Generally, those who are eligible for state unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA, but a claimant may qualify if state unemployment compensation benefits are exhausted,” said Surtees. “If you believe you are entitled to these benefits, I urge you to file a claim to see if you are eligible.”

People who may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance include the following: individuals who no longer have a job, are unable to reach the place of employment, or were scheduled to start work in the major disaster area and the job no longer exists; those who became the breadwinner or major support of the family because the head of household died, or those who cannot work because of an injury incurred during the major disaster. All of the previously described circumstances must be as a direct result of the storms. Self-employed individuals must provide a copy of their 2011 income tax records.

Claims can be filed through DIR’s website at www.dir.alabama.gov or by calling 1-866-234-5382. The deadline to file a DUA claim is **March 5, 2012**.

###

Members of the media seeking more information should contact Public Information Specialist Jenna Murphy at (334) 353-1548.